

| Notice of Allowability | Application No. | Applicant(s) |
|-------------------------------|------------------------|---------------------|
| | 10/002,181 | SAUER, JOCHEM |
| | Examiner | Art Unit |
| | John T. Haran | 1733 |

-- **The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--**

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTO-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. This communication is responsive to amendment and terminal disclaimer filed on 1/8/04.
2. The allowed claim(s) is/are 9-18.
3. The drawings filed on _____ are accepted by the Examiner.
4. Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) All
 - b) Some*
 - c) None
 of the:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. 08/860,762.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.
THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

5. A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
6. CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) hereto or 2) to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of
 Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
7. DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date _____
4. Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material
5. Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date _____
7. Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. Other _____.

Terminal Disclaimer

1. The terminal disclaimer filed on 1/8/04 disclaiming the terminal portion of any patent granted on this application which would extend beyond the expiration date of U.S. Patent 10/002,181 has been reviewed and is accepted. The terminal disclaimer has been recorded.

Allowable Subject Matter

2. Claims 9-18 are allowed.
3. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

The prior art of record fails to suggest the claimed process for surface pretreatment of a clean metal surface, which is aluminum or aluminum alloy, particularly coating the clean metal surface with a composition comprising an organosilane and exposing the coated surface to a laser.

Sauer (U.S. Patent 6,488,805) teaches applying a composition comprising organosilane to a metal surface other than a clean aluminum or aluminum alloy surface and exposing the coated surface to laser (See Abstract), but there is no suggestion of applying it to a clean aluminum or aluminum alloy.

Hatton et al (U.S. Patent 5,451,345) teaches applying an organosilane compound with the same claimed formula to aluminum for cleaning and priming it and subsequently exposing the coated aluminum with actinic irradiation (Column 1, lines 19-55). However, there is no suggestion of providing a cleaned aluminum surface (since the compound is for cleaning) and there is no suggestion of exposing the coated surface to a laser.

Volkmann et al (U.S. Patent 4,861,407) teaches exposing a cleaned aluminum surface to laser to enhance its adhesion, however there is no suggestion of providing a composition comprising an organosilane to the aluminum surface prior to the exposure to the laser (See Abstract).

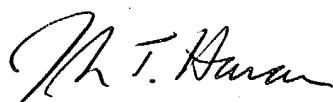
4. Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Conclusion

5. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to **John T. Haran** whose telephone number is **(571) 272-1217**. The examiner can normally be reached on M-Th (8 - 5) and alternate Fridays.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Richard Crispino can be reached on (571) 272-1226. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



John T. Haran



JEFF H. AFTERGUT
PRIMARY EXAMINER
GROUP 1300